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JOHN ENGLER, GOVERNOR  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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Vernice Davis Anthony, Director

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



239342

November 10, 1994

D/Sgt. Michael F. Thomas  
Firearms/Bomb Squad Unit  
Michigan Department of State Police  
Sterling Heights Laboratory  
42800 Merrill Road  
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314

Re: Clinton Township Police Department - August 31, 1994  
Division of Radiological Health incident number: CL-94-03

Dear D/Sgt. Thomas:

On August 31, 1994, this Division participated in a response to a suspected bomb containing radioactive material at the Clinton Township Police Department offices. At that time, you requested that we send you a copy of our reports and laboratory results.

I have been on an unexpected extended sick leave, therefore, this was delayed.

Mr. David Minnaar, of this Division, is still working with the staff from other federal and state agencies to assure that the police department receives proper instructions for disposal.

The laboratory results of the materials collected imply that the grey rocks and black and white granular materials were probably processed or reprocessed, i.e., they contained thorium in concentrations which would not typically be found in nature, at least not in Michigan. It might be interesting to know exactly where these materials were obtained. I seem to remember someone saying that the individual had been using his home-made detector to find and "mine" these materials in the Port Huron area. We can speculate that since these materials were apparently not natural in Michigan, there might be some manufacturing, processing, or mining activity in that area that may be improperly dumping its waste, which includes a concentrated level of radioactive material.

Both of the manufactured objects contain Americium-241, which is typically used in smoke detectors. In fact, the levels of radioactivity are appropriate for such sources. The handling and disposal of the smoke detector sources are not considered a problem and no special requirements need to be met.

D/Sgt. Michael F. Thomas

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If we learn anything else which is of great significance, we'll let you know.

Sincerely,

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Thomas M. Dykstra, Health Physicist  
Investigation and Compliance Section  
DIVISION OF RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH

TMD/d

cc: Alexander Ernst  
Clinton Township Police Department  
22932 Rasch  
*Clinton Township, Michigan 48035*